





See here the Youth by Wisdom led, | The dang'rous lures of Folly shun,
The paths of life securely tread ; | And Virtue's course serenely run.

A pretty New-Year's Gift ;

OR,

Entertaining Histories,

FOR THE

AMUSEMENT and INSTRUCTION

OF

Young LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

IN

WINTER EVENINGS.

By SOLOMON SOBERSIDES.

The cheerful Sage, when solemn dictates fail,
Conceals the moral Counsel in—a Tale.

THE FIRST WORCESTER EDITION.

WORCESTER, (MASSACHUSETTS)
PRINTED BY ISAIAH THOMAS,
AND SOLD AT HIS BOOK STORE.

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Entertaining Histories.

I. *The ungrateful Son; and dutiful Grandson.*

THERE is nothing, in reality, where people are so very wrong as in the education of children, though there is nothing in which they ought to be more absolutely certain of being right: If we seriously reflect upon the customary method in which children are brought up, we must almost imagine, that the generality of parents inculcate principles of religion and virtue into their offspring, for the mere satisfaction of bringing both religion and virtue into contempt; and paint the precepts of morality in the most engaging colours, to shew, by their practice, how much

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much these precepts are to be despised. The better to illustrate these remarks, let us attend to the following affecting story.

A worthy old gentleman, who had by an inflexible industry acquired a large fortune, with great reputation, at length declining business, devoted his sole attention to the settlement of an only son, of whom he was uncommonly fond. In a little time he married him to a woman of family, and judging of his son's affection by his own, made over every shilling he was worth, to the young gentleman, desiring nothing more than to be witness of his happiness in the same house, and depending upon his gratitude for any cursory trifle he might want for the private use of his purse.

The son had not been married however above six weeks, before he was under the sole dominion of his wife, who prevailed upon him to treat the old gentleman with
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the most mortifying neglect. If he wanted the carriage for an airing, why truly, My Lady has engaged it: If he desired to mix in a party of pleasure, They were quite full: He was suffered to sit whole evenings without being once spoken to; at table he was obliged to call three or four times for a glass of wine or a bit of bread; and if he entered into a narrative of any transaction which occurred in his youth, his obliging daughter-in-law immediately broke in upon him, and politely introduced a conversation upon something else. This unpardonable contempt was at last carried to such a degree, that his cough was complained of as troublesome, and under a pretence that his tobacco-box was insupportable, he was requested to eat in his own room.

Four or five years passed on in this manner, which were rendered a little tolerable by the birth of a grandson, a most engaging

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engaging boy, who, from the moment he was capable of distinguishing, seemed to be very fond of the old gentleman, and, by an almost instinctive attachment, appeared, as if providentially designed to atone for the unnatural ingratitude of his father. He was now turned of four, when one day some persons of fashion dining at the house, the old gentleman, who knew nothing of the company, came down in-

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to the back parlour to enquire for his little favourite, who had been for two whole hours out of his apartment. He had no sooner opened the door, than his dutiful son, before a room full of people, asked him, How he dared to break in upon him without leave? and desired him to get instantly up about his business. The old gentleman returned accordingly, and gave a very hearty freedom to his tears.

Little *Tommy*, who could not bear to hear his grandpapa chided at such a rate, followed him instantly, and observing how heartily he sobbed, came roaring down to the parlour, and before the whole company, cried out, Papa has made poor grandpapa break his heart; he will cry his eyes out above stairs. The son, who was really ashamed of his conduct, especially as he saw no sign of approbation in the faces of his friends, endeavoured to put an easy appearance on the affair, and
brazen



brazen it out. Turning round therefore to the child, he desired him to carry a blanket to grandpapa, and bid him go and beg : Ay, but I will not give him all the blanket, returned the child : Why so, my dear ? says the father : Because, answered he, I shall want half for you, when I grow up to be a man, and turn you out of doors. The child's reproof stung the father to the soul, and held up at once both the cruelty

for young MASTERS and MISSES. IT

erty and ingratitude of his conduct in their proper colours: Nay, the wife seemed affected, and wanted words. A good-natured tear dropped from more than one of the company, who seized the opportunity of condemning, in a very candid manner, their behaviour to so affectionate a father, and so bountiful a friend; and, in short, made them so heartily ashamed of themselves, that the old gentleman was immediately sent for by both, who, in the presence of all, most humbly intreated his forgiveness for every thing past, and promised the business of their lives should be to oblige him in future. The poor old gentleman's joy threatened now to be much more fatal than his affliction a little before. He looked upon his son and daughter for some time with a mute astonishment, mixed with a tenderness impossible to be described, and then fixing his eyes upon the company with a wildness of inconceivable rapture

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rapture, snatched up his little *Tommy*, who
joined him in a hearty flood of tears.

II. *History of two Friends.*

IN a neat little country town there lived two friends. Mr. Bridgeman (who was the elder of the two) was almost as famous as the spectator himself, for saying very little. Yes and no, were the words chiefly in use with him; for (like the Spectator too) he was very fond of monosyllables. He lived in great peace and quietness with all his neighbours; and enjoyed his life with much ease, on an income that was rather a comfortable than a large one. His friend, Mr. Johnson, had been much richer; but by being too apt to say severe things of other people, had made himself so many enemies, that what by quarrels and law-suits, and what by having offended his patron, he was reduced

duced to a very low ebb. One evening, as these two friends were sitting by the fire-side, which happened to them most evenings; for Mr. Bridgeman did not love much company, and Mr. Johnson had quarrelled with and talked ill of all the people that he had formerly been acquainted with; after the latter had been giving the characters of all the most considerable



people

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people for five miles round, and not any of them without a dash (at least) of his usual severity: Prithee, Bridgeman, says he, though every body knows you are such a profound mute, yet do not think that I will have all the task thus to myself.—It is but fair that you should club something to the conversation. Do you now in your turn, give a character or two of some of our neighbours; for I am sure I have treated you with above one hundred of them. Bridgeman smoked on in a most profound silence. Pho! this is carrying your humour too far. Why, I had rather sit by myself than with an absolute dumb man. Bridgeman smoked on. Nay, dear Bridgeman, cried he, favour me at least with one character. When Mr. Bridgeman had finished his pipe, and beat the ashes very leisurely out of it, he launched forth into the following profusion of words;

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for young MASTERS and MISSES. 15

(for with him it was a great profusion :) Good Mr. Johnson, through the whole course of my life I have been a great inspector of the manners of men ; but as to giving any character, I must beg you will excuse me. It is, and always has been my way, where I cannot speak well of any body, to say nothing at all. By this means I am called the mute. Be it so ; since by the same means I continue well with every body ; and, in spite of the badness of mankind, have nothing to complain of from any of them. You see my way to all the ease and happiness I enjoy. Do you follow my example ; and instead of all these jars, quarrels, and perplexities that you are continually engaged in, you would find yourself as unmolested and as happy as I am.

III. *History*

III. *History of a Turkish Prisoner and his kind Benefactor.*

I AM at last arrived in *Holland*, and have taken the first opportunity to give you a relation of the adventures that detained me so long in foreign countries.

In my return from the *Indies*, I had some affairs with a *Spanish* merchant, which while I was managing in one of the sea-ports, there came a *Spanish* ship, that had taken a rich *Turkish* prize, with several *Turks* and *Moors* prisoners, whom he offered for sale as slaves. I never had any traffick of this kind from any view of interest; but from a motive of compassion. I had purchased liberty for many a miserable wretch, to whom I gave freedom the moment I had paid his ransom.

Among the captives newly taken there was one distinguished by the richness of his

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his habit, and more by the gracefulness of his port. He drew all my attention ; of which he appeared sensible, and still directed his looks to me : our souls seemed to greet one another, as if their intimacy had been of long standing and commenced in some pre-existent period. There was something in the air of this young stranger, superior to adversity, and yet sensible of the present disadvantage of his



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fate ;

fate; while I felt for him an emotion soft as the ties of nature, and could not but impute it to the secret impression of some intelligent power, which was leading me to a height of generosity beyond my own intention, and by an impulse of virtue on my soul, directing it to the accomplishment of some distant and unknown design of providence. The heavenly instigation came with a prevailing force, and I could not but obey its dictate.

The price set upon this captive was extravagantly high, and such as would be a vast disadvantage to my present affairs to part with. However, I listened to the gentle monitor within, and paid the Corsair his full demand.

As soon as I conducted the youth to my lodgings, I told him he was from that moment free; the price I had paid was for his friendship and liberty.

Then

for young MASTERS and MISSES. 19

Then you have confined me by the most lasting engagements, replied the stranger, I might have broke through any other restraint; but I am now your voluntary slave, and dare trust you with a secret yet unknown to the *Spaniard*. My name is *Orramel*, the only son of a wealthy Bassa in *Constantinople*; and you may demand what you will for my ransom.

You will soon be convinced, said I, there was no mercenary intention in this action. The amity I have for you is noble and disinterested: It was kindled by a celestial spark, an emanation from the divine clemency, and terminates in nothing below your immortal happiness. And were you inclined to examine those sacred truths which would lead you to great felicity, and to share my fortune in a free and happy nation, the wealth of the *Indies* should not buy you from my affections; but if it
is

is your choice to return to the customs and religion of your country, you are absolutely free, without attending to any terms for your release.

With a friendly, but dejected look, he told me, it was impossible for him to dispense with his filial obligations to an indulgent parent ; but he positively refused his freedom until he had given intelligence, and received an answer from his father ; which he soon had, with orders to tell me I might make my own terms for his son's ransom. I desired him to acquaint his father, I required nothing more than the liberty of all the christian slaves he had in his possession, hoping, by this disinterested conduct, to leave a conviction on the mind of my young friend in favour of Christianity. He could persuade me to receive nothing but a little present, and left me with some apparent concern.

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It was some months after he was gone before I could finish my negotiations in *Spain*; but as soon as they were dispatched I embarked for *Holland*. We had not been a week at sea, before the ship was taken by a *Turkish* pirate, and all the men in it carried to *Constantinople* to be sold for slaves. My lot fell to a master, from whom I was like to find the most barbarous treatment: However, I was resolved to endure my bondage, until I could give intelligence to my friends in *England* to procure my ransom. I was fixed not to give *Orramel* an account of my distress, until I was in circumstances not to need his kindness, nor expect a retaliation of my own.

But heaven had kinder intentions by bringing me into this adversity, nor left me long without redress. As I was talking in a publick place to one of my fellow-slaves *Orramel* came by. He passed beyond



yond me, but instantly returning, looked on me with great attention, until some melting sorrow dropped from his eyes, when, making enquiry of some that were near, to whom I belonged, and being informed, without speaking a word to me, he flew to my new master, paid his demand for my ransom, and immediately conducted me to his house, where he welcomed me with the warmest marks of affection. He spoke,

spoke, he paused, and was in the greatest perplexity to find language suitable to the sentiments of his soul.

My brother ! said he, my friend ! or, if there are any more sacred ties in nature or virtue, let me call you by some gentler appellation ! we are now united by the bands of celestial amity, one in the same holy faith, and hope of a glorious immortality. - Your charity rescued me from a worse than the *Spanish* slavery, from the bondage of vice and superstition ! Your conduct banished my prejudices to the Christian name, and made way for the entrance of those heavenly truths, to which I now assent. But this is a secret even to my own domesticks ; and whether such a caution is criminal I am not yet able to determine.

With what rapture, what attention, did I listen to this language ! I blessed the accents

cents that told me my friend, my *Orramel*, had embraced the Christian faith. An angel's song would have been less melodious. I looked upward, and with a grateful elevation of mind, gave the glory to the supreme Disposer of all human events. The instinct was from above, that first moved me to ransom this young captive ; thence was the spring of my compassion : It would be vanity, it would be the most criminal arrogance, not to ascribe this action to the assisting Deity.

The illustrious *Orramel* made it his study, to evince his affection : He told me, his father died since we parted in *Spain* ; and that he had left three daughters that he had by several wives. He offered me the choice of his sisters if I had any thoughts of marriage, and promised a dowry with her to my content. One of them, he said, was privately bred a Christian by
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her mother, a beautiful woman of *Armenia*. I was pleased with the proposal, and impatient to see my fair mistress. In the mean time he made me a present of several rich habits, and two negroes to attend me.

The next day he conducted me to a fair summer-house, whither he sent for his sisters; who were all so very handsome, that



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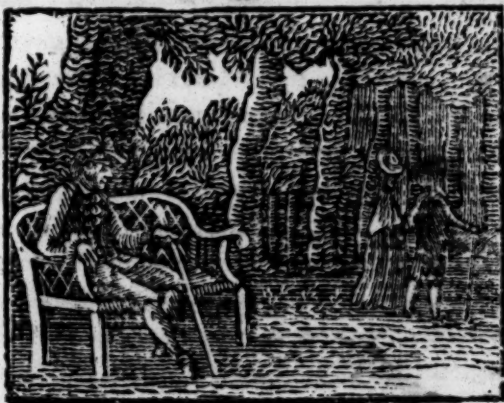
I was distressed with my own liberty, nor knew where to chuse, had not a principle of piety directed me to the young *Armenian*; who was not superiour to the rest, but there was a decorum in her behaviour which the others wanted. She had more of the politeness and modesty of European women, to whom you know I was always partial. My choice was fixed; and the more I conversed with my mistress, the more reason I had to approve it. We were privately married by a *British* envoy. My generous friend gave her a fortune which abundantly repaired all my losses, and, after a prosperous voyage, I am safely landed in *Holland*.

I have sent you this relation as a memorial of my gratitude to Heaven, whose clemency has returned me more than measure for measure, and largely recompensed that liberality it first inspired.

IV. History

IV. *History of the Duke of Montague and an English Captain.*

SOON after the conclusion of the last peace, the Duke of *Montague* had observed, that a middle aged man, in something like a military dress, of which the lace was much tarnished, and the cloth worn thread-bare, appeared at a certain



hour

hour in St. *James's* park, walking to and fro in the mall, with a kind of mournful solemnity, or ruminating by himself on one of the benches, without taking notice of the gay croud which surrounded him.

This man the Duke singled out, as likely to be a fit object to exercise his humanity on. He began, therefore, by making some enquiry concerning him, and soon learned that he was an unfortunate gentleman, who, having laid out his whole stock in the purchase of a commission, had behaved with great bravery in the hopes of preferment; but upon the conclusion of the peace, had been reduced to starve on half-pay; he also learned on further enquiry, that the Captain, having a wife and several children, had been reduced to the necessity of sending them down into *Yorkshire*, whither he constantly remitted one moiety

moiety of his half-pay, which would not subsist them near *London* : These particulars pleased the Duke, and he immediately set about his operation.

After some time, when every thing had been prepared, he watched an opportunity, when the Captain was sitting alone buried in thought, to send his servant to him, with his compliments, and an invitation to dinner the next day. He returned thanks for the honour intended him, and promised to wait upon his Grace at the time appointed, when the Duke received him with particular marks of civility. Word was presently brought that dinner was served up ; but the Captain's wonder was great to see his wife and children at the table. The Duke had begun by sending for them out of *Yorkshire*, and had as much, if not more, astonished the lady than he had done her husband, to whom he took care she should

should have no opportunity to send a letter.

It is much more easy to conceive than to describe a meeting so sudden, unexpected and extraordinary ; suffice it to say, that it afforded the Duke the highest entertainment, who at length, with much difficulty, quietly seated them at table, and persuaded them to fall too, without thinking either of yesterday or to-morrow. Soon



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after dinner was over, word was brought to the Duke, that his lawyer attended about some business by his Grace's order. The Duke, willing to have a short truce with the various enquiries of the Captain about his family, ordered the lawyer to be introduced, who pulling out a deed that the Duke was to sign, was desired to read it, with an apology to the company for the interruption: The lawyer began to read, when to complete the adventure, and the confusion and astonishment of the poor Captain and his wife, the deed appeared to be a settlement made upon them of a genteel sufficiency for life; the Duke then signed, sealed, and delivered it into the Captain's hands, desiring him to accept it without compliments, For, says he, I am certain, I could not have employed my money or my time more to my satisfaction in any other way. The Captain and his family left the Duke with prayers
for

for his posterity, whilst he himself had the satisfaction of saying he had relieved the distressed.

V. *History of Ebouli Sina and a poor Woman.*

EBOULI SINA, a sage dervise, had passed the night in the house of a poor woman, who had exercised all the duties of hospitality towards him, he was touched with the unfortunate condition to which she was reduced, and resolving to succour her in her misfortunes, he loosened a stone from out of the wall of the house, and pronounced some words over it, placed it again where it was before, and pierced it with a little pipe, at the end of which he put a cock, then said to the woman as he returned her his thanks, and bid her adieu,

“ My



My good mother, whenever you are in want of necessaries turn this cock, and draw out as much wine as you please ; take the quantity that is necessary for your own use, and carry the remainder to the market. Be assured that the source will never fail ; all I exact of you is, not to unloose the stone, nor to look at what I have put behind it. The good woman

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promised

promised she would not, and during some time observed what the holy man had recommended to her. She gathered riches, affluence, and plenty soon rained in her little family, at length curiosity became so strong within her that she submitted to its dictates, she displaced the stone, and found nothing behind it but one single grape; she then replaced it in the same order she found it, but the wine ran no more: Thus was she, by satisfying her idle curiosity, punished by the same want she before experienced.

VI. *Ingratitude and Avarice punished.*

A DERVEISE, venerable by his age, fell ill in the house of a widow, who lived in extreme poverty in the suburbs of *Balsora*. He was so touched with the care and zeal with which she had assisted him, that at his departure he said to her,

her, I have remarked that you have wherewith to subsist upon alone, but that you have not enough to share it with your only son, the young Abdalla, if you will trust him to my care, I will do all that is possible to acknowledge in his person the obligations I have to you. The good woman received his proposal with joy, and the Dervise departed with the young man. Abdalla a hundred times testified his gratitude to him, but the old man always said to him, My son, it is by actions that gratitude is proved: I shall see at a proper time and place whether you are so grateful as you profess to be. One day as they continued their travels, they found themselves in a solitary place, and the Dervise said to Abdalla, We are now at the end of our journey. The Dervise striking a light, made a small fire, into which he cast a perfume, he then prayed for some moments,

ments, after which the earth opened, and the Dervise said to him, Thou mayest now enter, my dear Abdalla ; remember it is in thy power to do me a great service, and that this perhaps is the only opportunity thou canst ever have of testifying to me thou art not ungrateful. Do not be dazzled by what thou wilt find there, think only of seizing upon an iron candlestick with twelve branches, which thou wilt find close to a door, that is absolutely necessary to me. Come up immediately, and bring it me. Abdalla promised every thing, and descended boldly into the vault ; but forgetting what had been so expressly commanded him, whilst he was filling his vest and his bosom with the gold and jewels which this vault inclosed in prodigious heaps, the opening by which he entered closed of itself ; he had, however, presence of mind enough to seize on the iron candlestick :



dlestick : He searched many ways to get out, at length, after much pain and inquietude, he was fortunate enough to find a narrow passage, which led him out of his obscure cave, though it was not until he had followed it a considerable way that he perceived a small opening, covered with briars and thorns, through which he came out.

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He looked on all sides to see if he could perceive the Dervise, but not seeing him, nor remembering any of the places through which they had passed, he went on as fortune directed him, and was extremely astonished to find himself before the door of his mother's house. She immediately enquired after the holy Dervise. Abdalla told her frankly the danger he had run to satisfy his unreasonable desires, he afterwards shewed her the riches; while they contemplated on these treasures with avidity, and, dazzled with their lustre, formed a thousand projects in consequence of them, they all vanished away before their eyes. It was then that Abdalla sincerely reproached himself with his ingratitude and disobedience, as he did thus, he placed the candlestick in the midst of the room. When night was come, without reflecting, he placed a light in it, immediately they

saw

saw a Dervise appear, who turned round for an hour and disappeared, after having thrown them an aspre, or small *Turkish* coin. Abdalla, who meditating all the day upon what he had seen the night before, was willing to know what would happen the next night if he put a candle in each of the branches: He did so, and twelve Dervises appeared; they turned round also for an hour, and each of them threw an aspre. He constantly every night repeated the same ceremony, which had always the same success. This trifling sum was enough to make him and his mother subsist tolerably; but they thinking it but a small advantage they drew from the candlestick, he resolved to carry it back to the Dervise, in hopes that he might obtain of him the treasure he had seen, or at least what had vanished from his sight, by restoring

restoring him a thing for which he had testified so ardent a desire. He was so fortunate as to remember his name, and that of the city where he dwelt. He took leave of his mother, and departed immediately with the candlestick, which furnished him with necessaries on the road. When he arrived at *Magrabi*, his first care was to enquire in what house the Dervise dwelt. He got intelligence, and repaired thither immediately, and found fifty porters who kept the gates of his palace, each having a staff, with a head of gold in their hands; the palace was filled with slaves and domesticks; in fine, the court of a prince could not expose to view greater magnificence. Abdalla then enquired for the Dervise; he was soon conducted to an agreeable pavilion where the Dervise was seated. Thou art but an ungrateful wretch, said he to him, if thou hadst known

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known the true use of this candlestick never wouldest thou have brought it me. I will make thee sensible of its true virtue. Immediately he placed a light in each of its branches, and when the twelve Dervises had turned for some time, he gave each of them a blow with a cane, and in a moment they were converted into twelve large heaps of diamonds and other precious stones.

stones. This, said he, is the proper use to be made of this miraculous candlestick ; but to prove to thee that curiosity was the only occasion of my search for it ; here are the keys of my magazine, tell if the insatiable miser would not be satisfied with them. Abdalla obeyed him, and examined twelve magazines, which were so full of all manner of riches, that he could not distinguish what merited his admiration most ; regret of having restored the candlestick and not finding the use of it, pierced the heart of Abdalla ; the Dervise seemed not to perceive it, but on the contrary loaded him with caresses. When the eve of the day which he had fixed for his departure was come, the Dervise said to him, Abdalla, I owe thee a mark of my gratitude for taking so long a journey with a view of bringing me the thing I desired ; thou mayest depart, thou shalt find to-mor-

row,

row, at the gates of my palace, one of my horses to carry thee : I make thee a present of it, as well as of a slave, who shall conduct to thy house two camels loaded with gold and jewels. Abdalla said to him all that a heart sensible to avarice could express, when its passion was satisfied, and went to lay down until the morning arrived, which was the time fixed for his departure. During the night he was still agitated, without being able to think on any thing else but the candlestick, and what it produced : He determined at length to seize on the candlestick, which was not difficult, the Dervise having trusted him with the keys of the magazines ; he knew where the candlestick was placed ; he took it and hid it at the bottom of one of the sacks, which he filled with pieces of gold, and other riches he was allowed to take,
and

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and loaded it as well as the rest upon his
camels, and after returning the Dervise
his keys, departed with his horse, his slave
and two camels.



When he had gone some days journey
he sold his slave, resolving not to have a
witness of his former poverty, nor of the
source of his present riches; he bought
another, and arrived without any other ob-
stacle

His first care was to place the loads of the camels and the candlestick in the most private room in the house, and in his impatience to feed his eyes with his great opulence, he placed lights immediately in the candlestick, the twelve Dervises appearing, he gave each of them a blow with all his might ; but he had not remarked, that the Dervise when he struck them had the cane in his left hand : Abdalla, by a natural motion, made use of his right, and the Dervises, instead of becoming heaps of riches, immediately drew from beneath their robes, each a formidable club, with which they struck him so hard, and so often, that they left him almost dead, and disappeared, carrying with them all his treasure, the camels, the horse, the slave, and the candlestick.

VII. *Virtue rewarded.*

TOGALTIMUR-CAN, King of *Tartary*, was one day told he had a man in his dominions, who was such an utter enemy to a lie, that he always spoke truth. He, desirous of having him near him, bestowed upon him the charge of Master of the Horse. A courtier of such a new character could not fail of having enviers, who spared no endeavours to ruin him. But the King, who was not a prince that would suffer himself to be prejudiced, would judge of things himself, tried his master of the horse on several occasions, and always found him so frank and sincere, that he bestowed on him the surname of *Sadyq*, or True.

Of all *Sadyq*'s enemies, none was so strongly bent on his ruin, as the Visier
Tangrebride :

Tangrebride : There was no contrivance which he had not made use of to render him odious to the King, and not being able to accomplish his end, thus expressed his chagrin to his daughter : How unhappy am I, not to be able to ruin this man, who is scarcely settled at court. Sadyq triumphs over all my attempts to ruin his fortune. Hofchendan his daughter, who was not less malicious than the Visier, instead of persuading him to give up the point, promised to assist him, provided he would give her leave to act as she should see fit, and promised to make him lie before the King ; all which he agreed to : She then immediately made herself ready, dressed herself in her richest jewels, and did not forget one thing which could contribute to her beauty, and make her appear lovely in the eyes of Sadyq. Thus dressed she went out attended by her slaves, who guarded

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guarded her to the house of the master of the horse, and when she came thither, dismissed the slaves, and knocked at the door, which being opened, she desired to speak with Sadyq, on a matter of great importance; she was invited to come in, and being led into his apartment, found him



sitting on a sofa : After salutation she approached him, lifted up the veil which covered

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ered her face, and seated herself on the same sofa, without speaking a word. Sadyq, who had never before beheld such beauty, was sensibly touched, which the lady who came there for no other reason, which she perceiving, broke silence: Oh, Sadyq! do not be surprized to see a lady, who is willing to entertain a friendship for you; but you must first grant me a favour. Charming maid, said Sadyq, transported with tenderness, you need only command your slave, and your will shall be fulfilled. I long, says she, to taste some horse-flesh, wherefore you must immediately kill the best and the fattest horse in the Sultan's stable, the heart of which we will order to be roasted. Ask rather my life, said he, and I will give it, but I must have a particular regard to whatever belongs to my master. No returned Hoshendan, I long for a bit of the King's horses; it is a
D whimsical

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whimsical fancy, but it must, if you have
any regard for me, be gratified. If I
should be so weak as to yield to your en-
treaties, the Sultan will not fail to punish
me. You have nothing to fear, says she,
if the Sultan should ask you what is be-
come of the horse, you may say, finding
him sick, and past all hopes of recovery
you killed him, lest his disease should in



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for young MASTERS and MISSES. 51

fect others. He will believe you upon your word, and commend your prudence.

With these persuasions, and her tears, which reached Sandyq's soul, she at last brought him to consent: He then went himself into the stable, and killed the horse; he took out the heart, which he caused to be roasted, and they both supped together; after which she returned home to her father, who waited the event. In the morning the Visier rose, went to the palace, and told the Sultan the adventure, concealing the lady's name, and that it was to serve his hatred she had ventured to try the integrity of the master of the Horse.

Whilst the Visier was relating this story to the Sultan, with all the malice of a courtier bent on the destruction of his enemy, Sadyq returned to himself, and made many bitter reflections on his last night's misconduct.



misconduct. Alas ! said he, what shall I say to the Sultan when he asks me for his horse ? I that have hitherto made it a law to myself to speak the truth, if I tell a lie, shall I not be punished with death ? shall I borrow the assistance of a lie ? that would be to add a new crime to what I have already committed ; on the other side, if I honestly confess it, my sincerity will cost me my life ; whether I lie or speak the truth I am equally sure to lose my life. While he was thus plunged in melancholy thoughts, a messenger came from the Sultan, to tell him the Sultan called for him. He obeyed his order, and came into his presence, where he found his enemy the Visier. Sadyq, said the Sultan, I would hunt to-day, go saddle my fine black horse. The words struck poor Sadyq with a deadly fear, who, in great confusion, answered, Sir, a misfortune has happened

happened to your servant last night : As I was sitting in my chamber, a veiled lady entered, she discovered herself, and proffered me her friendship, provided I would give her the heart of the black horse : Charmed with her beauty, I reluctantly complied ; I confess my crime ; I come



to offer up myself to thy mercy : There is my sabre, and here is my head, which I would

would sooner lose by telling the truth, than save by a falsehood. The Sultan turning to the Visier asked his advice, and what sort of treatment he thought proper for Sadyq. Sir, answered he, transported with the opportunity, I am of opinion, that he ought to be burnt by a slow fire, for presuming to kill a horse you so highly valued to satisfy his pleasure. I am not of your opinion, replied the Sultan—then, addressing himself to Sadyq, he said, I am charmed with you sincerity, and excuse your weakness: I pardon then the death of my black horse, and am so well pleased with your telling me the truth on this occasion, that I order a robe of honour to be brought for you immediately. When the Visier saw, that instead of punishing the master of the horse he was rewarded, he grew so extremely melancholy that

that he fell sick, and soon after died, and the fortunate Sadyq was chosen to supply his place.

VIII. *History of Almerine and Shelimah.*

OMARADDIN, a principal nobleman in the court of Soliman, Emperour of the East, had two daughters, Almerine and Shelimah. At the birth of Almerine the fairy Elfarina had presided; and in compliance with the importunate requests of the parents, had endowed her with every natural excellence, both of body and mind, and decreed, that she should be sought in marriage by a sovereign Prince. When the wife of Omaraddin was pregnant with Shelimah, the fairy Elfarina was again invoked; at which Farimina, another fairy, was offended. Farimina was inexorable and cruel; Elfari-
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na placable and benevolent ; and fairies of this character were observed to be superior in power. Elfarina therefore resolved that her influence should not be wanting ; and, as far as she was able, precluded the influence of Farimina, who had decreed, that the person of Shelimah should be rendered hideous by every species of deformity, and that all her wishes should produce an opposite effect.

The parents dreaded the birth of the infant under this malediction ; the moment they beheld it they were solicitous only to conceal it from the world. They sent her, with only one attendant, to a remote castle, which stood on the confines of a wood.

Elfarina did not thus, however, forsake innocence in distress ; but to counterbalance the evils of obscurity, neglect and ugliness, decreed, that to the taste of Shelimah,

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limah, the coarsest food should be the most exquisite dainty ; that the rags which covered her, should, in her estimation, be equal to cloth of gold ; that she should prize a cottage more than a palace, and that in these circumstances love should be a stranger to her breast. To prevent the vexation which would arise from the continual disappointment of her wishes, appeared

peared at first to be more difficult, but this was at length perfectly effected, by endowing her with content.

While Shelimah was immured in a remote castle, neglected and forgotten, every city in the dominions of Soliman contributed to decorate the person, or cultivate the mind of Almerine; yet, amidst all these accomplishments she was haughty and fierce, fond of praise, luxurious, and, upon the whole, disagreeable. Among many others by whom Almerine had been taught to investigate nature, Nourassin the physician had acquainted her with the qualities of trees and herbs, and of Nourassin she became enamoured to the most romantick excess.

It was the custom of the nobles to present their daughters to the Sultan when they entered their eighteenth year; an event

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vent which Almerine had always anticipated with impatience and hope, but now wished to prevent with solicitude and terror. The period, urged forward, like every thing future, with silent and irresistible rapidity, at length arrived. The curiosity of Soliman had been raised, as well by accidental encomiums as by the artifices of Omaraddin, who now hastened to gratify it, with the utmost anxie-



ty and perturbation, and Almerine, covered with ornaments, by which art and nature were exhausted, was, however reluctant, introduced to the Sultan. Soliman was now in his thirtieth year; he had sitten ten years upon the throne, and, for the steadiness of his virtue, had been furnamed the Just.

Soliman having gazed some moments upon Almerine with silent admiration, rose up, and turning to the princes that stood round him, To-morrow, said he, I will grant the request which you have often repeated, and place a beauty upon my throne, by whom I may transmit my dominion to posterity: To-morrow the daughter of Omaraddin shall be my wife. The joy with which Omaraddin heard this declaration, was abated by the effect which it produced upon Almerine, who, after some ineffectual struggles with the passions which

which agitated her mind, threw herself into the arms of her women, and burst into tears. Soliman immediately dismissed his attendants, and, taking her in his arms, enquired the cause of her distress; this, however, was a secret which neither her pride nor her fear, would suffer her to reveal. She continued silent and inconsolable; and Soliman, though he secretly suspected some other attachment, yet appeared to be satisfied with the suggestions of her father, that her emotion was only such as was common to the sex upon any great and unexpected event. He desisted from further importunity, and commanded that her women should remove her to a private apartment of the palace, and that she should be attended by his physician Nourassin.

Nourassin, who had already learned what had happened, found his despair relieved by another interview. The lovers, however,

however, were restrained from condolence and consultation by the presence of the women, who could not be dismissed ; but Nourassin put a small vial into the hand of Almerine as he departed, and told her, that it contained a cordial, which if administered in time, would infallibly restore the cheerfulness and vigour that she had lost. These words were heard by the attendants, though they were understood only by Almerine ; she readily comprehended the contents of the vial was poison, which would relieve her from languor and melancholy, by removing the cause, if it could be given to the Sultan before her marriage was compleated. After Nourassin was gone, she sat ruminating on the infelicity of her situation, and the dreadful events of to-morrow, until the night was far spent ; and then, exhausted with perturbation and watching, she sunk down on the sofa, and fell into a deep sleep.

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The Sultan, whose rest had been interrupted by the effects which the beauty of Almerine had produced upon his mind, rose at the dawn of day, and sending for her principal attendants, who had been ordered to watch in her chamber, eagerly enquired what had been her behaviour, and whether she had recovered from her surprize. He was acquainted that she had lately fallen asleep, and that a cordial had been left by Nourassin, which he affirmed, would, if not too long delayed, suddenly recover her from languor and dejection, and which, notwithstanding she had neglected to take. Soliman derived new hopes from this intelligence, and that she might meet him at the hour of marriage with the cheerful vivacity which the cordial of Nourassin would inspire, he ordered that it should, without asking her any questions, be mixed with whatever she first drank in the morning. Al-

Almerine, in whose blood the long continued tumult of her mind had produced a feverish heat, awaked, parched with thirst, and called eagerly for drink : Her attendant, having first emptied the vial in-



to the bowl, as she had been commanded by the Sultan, presented it to her, and she drank it off.

As soon as she recollected the horrid business of the day she missed the vial, and

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for young MASTERS and MISSES. 65

in a few moments learned how it had been applied. The sudden terrour which now seized her, hastened the effects of the poison.

Her disorder was now apparent, though the cause was not suspected. Nourassin was again introduced, acquainted with the mistake, an antidote was immediately prepared and administered; and Almerine waited the event in agonies of body and mind not to be described. The commotion every instant increased; sudden and intolerable heat and cold succeeded each other, and in less than an hour she was covered with a leprosy, her hair fell, her head swelled, and every feature in her countenance was distorted. Nourassin, who was doubtful of the event, had withdrawn to conceal his confusion; and Almerine not knowing these dreadful appearances were the presages of recovery, conceived

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her dissolution to be near, and, in the agony of remorse and terroure, earnestly requested to see the Sultan. Soliman hastily entered the apartment, and beheld the ruins of her beauty with astonishment, which every moment encreased, while she discovered what had been intended against him, and which had now fallen upon her own head.

Soliman, after he had recovered from his astonishment, retired to his own apartment, and in the interval of recollection, he soon discovered, that the desire of beauty had seduced him from the paths of justice, and that he ought to have dismissed the person whose affections he believed to have another object. He did not therefore take away the life of Nourassin for a crime to which himself had furnished the temptation ; but as some punishment was necessary as the sanction to the laws, he condemned

demned him to perpetual banishment. He commanded that Almerine should be sent back to her father, that her life might be a memorial of her folly ; and he determined, if possible, to atone, by a second marriage, for the errors of the first.

He considered how he might enforce and illustrate some general precepts, which would contribute more to the felicity of his people, than his leaving them a sovereign of his own blood ; and at length he determined to publish this proclamation throughout all the provinces of his empire. Soliman, whose judgment has been perverted, and whose life endangered, by the influence and treachery of unrivalled beauty, is now resolved to place equal deformity upon his throne, that, when this event is recorded, the world may know that by vice beauty became more odious than ugliness ; and learn like Soliman, to despise that

that excellence, which without virtue is only a specious evil, the reproach of the possessor, and the snare of others.

Shelimah, during these events, experienced a very different fortune. She remained until she was thirteen years of age in the castle ; and it happened, that about this time the person to whose care she had been committed, after a short sickness, died. Shelimah, imagined that she slept ; but perceiving that all attempts to waken her were ineffectual, and the stock of provisions being exhausted, she found means to open the wicket, and wandered alone in the wood. She satisfied her hunger with such berries and wild fruits as she found, and at night, not being able to find her way back, lay down under a thicket and slept. Here she was awaked early in the morning by a peasant. The man asked her many questions ; but her answer rather



rather encreasing than gratifying his curiosity, he set her before him on his beast, and carried her to his house in the next village, at the distance of about six leagues. In this family she was the jest of some, and the pity of others ; she was employed in the meanest offices, and her figure procured her the name of Goblin. But amidst all the disadvantages of her situation, she enjoyed the utmost felicity, of food and
rest

rest ; as she formed no wishes, she suffered no disappointment ; her body was healthful, and her mind at peace. In this situation she had continued four years, when the heralds appeared in the village with the proclamation of Soliman. Shelimah ran out with others to gaze at the parade ; she listened to the proclamation with great attention, and when it was ended, she perceived that the eyes of the multitude were fixed on her : One of the horsemen at the same time alighted, and, with great ceremony, entreated her to enter a chariot which was in the retinue, telling her, That she was without doubt the person whom nature and Soliman had destined to be their Queen. Shelimah replied with a smile, That she had no desire to be great ; but, said she, if your proclamation be true, I should rejoice to be the instrument of such admonition to mankind ; and upon
this

this condition, I wish that I were indeed the most deformed of my species. The moment this wish was uttered, the spell of Farimina produced a contrary effect. A white robe was thrown over her by an invisible hand, the croud fell back in astonishment, and gazed with insatiable curiosity upon such beauty as before they had never seen. Shelimah was not less astonished than the croud: She stood a-while with her eyes fixed upon the ground, and finding her confusion encrease, would have retired in silence, but she was prevented by the heralds, who having with much importunity prevailed upon her to enter the chariot, returned with her to the metropolis, presented her to Soliman, and related the prodigy.

Soliman looked round upon the assembly in doubt, whether to prosecute or relinquish his purpose, when Ab'baran, a
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hoary sage, who had long presided in the council of his father, came forward, and placing his forehead on the footstool of the throne. Let the Sultan, said he, accept the reward of virtue, and take Shelimah to his bed. In what age, and in what nation, shall not the beauty of Shelimah be honoured? To whom will it not be transmitted? Will not the story of the wife of Soliman descend with her name? Will it not be known that the desire of beauty will not be gratified until it had been subdued? That by an iniquitous purpose beauty became hideous, and by a virtuous intent deformity became fair?—Soliman, who had fixed his eyes upon Shelimah, discovered a mixture of joy and confusion in her countenance, which determined his choice, and was an earnest of his felicity; for, at that moment, love, which, during her state of deformity, had been excluded by the
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fairy Elfarina's interdiction, took possession of her breast.

The nuptial ceremony was not long delayed, and the good fairy Elfarina honoured it with her presence, and when she departed bestowed on both her benediction. They lived many years the glory and happiness of the people they governed, and Shelimah continued a striking proof, that natural or acquired excellence is less desirable than virtue.

IX. *Im-*

IX. *Impartial Distribution of Justice.*

A POOR villager complained to Mahamoud, Sultan of Damascus, that a young Turk of distinction had broken into his house, and insulted him so, that he was forced to abandon it, with his wife and family to the shameful abuses of this bold intruder, who afterwards escaped and remained unknown. The Sultan, very much moved, charged the sufferer to come immediately and give him notice if ever that Turk should repeat the insult; which he did three days after, and the poor man came and threw himself at the feet of the Sultan, and complained accordingly. Mahamoud, taking a few attendants, immediately went with him. It was night when they came to the house: but the Sultan ordered all the lights to be put out, then rushed boldly in, and with his sabre cut

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the ravisher in pieces ; After which he ordered a torch to be lighted, and looking on the face of the malefactor, immediately, with an air of joy, fell down on the ground and praised God. When he rose, he bid the man of the house bring him what victuals he had, which was only some stale brown bread and butter-milk, of which the Sultan eat and drank heartily ; and then being ready to return, at the poor man's request, explained all these mysterious circumstances as follows : You must know, said he, that by hearing these complaints, and the description you gave me of the criminal, I concluded he could be no other than my own son ; therefore, lest my eyes should stubborn my heart, and the tenderness of nature enervate the arm of justice, I resolved, through the undistinguishing veil of night, to give it scope ; but when I beheld it was not he,

but

but only an officer of my guard, I fell down with gladness, to give thanks unto God that my offspring had not in this affair deserved my wrath, nor met with my vengeance. And after all, I asked what provision you had at hand to satisfy my hunger, and repair this fleshly frame, which my resentment would not suffer me to gratify, either with sleep or sustenance, from the moment I heard this accusation, until I had punished the author of your wrongs, and shewed myself worthy of my people's obedience: For this one example shall make it known among them, that you have a Prince, under whom there is no sufferer so mean who need not fear to be denied redress, nor no offender so great as may escape punishment.

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X. History of two European Chiefs.

HACHO, a King of Lapland, was in his youth the most renowned of the northern warriors; his martial achievements remain engraved on a pillar of flint in the rocks of Hanga, and are to this day solemnly carrolled to the harp by the Laplanders at the fires with which they celebrate their nightly festivities. His temperance and severity of manners were his chief praise. In his early years he never tasted wine, nor would he drink out of a painted cup. He constantly slept in his armour, with his spear in his hand; nor would he use a battle-ax whose handle was inlaid with brass. He did not, however, persevere in his contempt of luxury, nor did he close his life with honour.

One day, after hunting the Gulos, or wild dog, being bewildered in a solitary forest

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forest, and having passed the fatigues of
the day, without any interval of refresh-
ment, he discovered a large store of honey



in the hollow of a pine. This was a dain-
ty which he had never tasted before, and
being at once both faint and hungry,
he fell greedily upon it. From this unu-
sual delicious repast he received so much
satisfaction, that at his return home he
commanded

es of commanded honey to be served up at
resh- his table every day. His palate by de-
oney grees became refined and vitiated; he be-
gan to lose his native relish for simple fare,
and contracted a habit of indulging him-
self in delicacies; he ordered the delight-
ful gardens of his castle to be thrown open,
in which the most luscious fruits had been
suffered to ripen and decay, unobserved
and untouched, for many revolving au-
tumn, and gratified his appetite with lux-
urious deserts. At length he found it ex-
pedient to introduce wine, as an agreeable
improvement, or a necessary ingredient, to
this new way of living; and having once
tasted it, he was tempted by little to give
a loose to the excesses of intoxication.
His general simplicity of life was chang-
ed; he perfumed his apartment by burn-
ing the wood of the most aromattick fir, and
commanded his helmet to be ornamented
with

with beautiful rows of the teeth of the Reindeer. Indolence and effeminacy stole upon him, by pleasing and imperceptible gradations, relaxed the sinews of resolution, and extinguished his thirst of military glory.

Whilst Hacho was thus immersed in pleasure and repose, it was reported to him one morning, that the preceeding night a disastrous omen had been discovered, and that bats and hideous birds had drank up the oil which nourished the perpetual lamp in the temple of Odin. About the same time a messenger arrived to tell him, that the King of Norway had invaded his kingdom with a formidable army. Hacho, terrified as he was with the omen of the night, and enervated with indulgence, roused himself from his voluptuous lethargy, and recollecting some faint sparks of veteran valour, marched forward to meet him.

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for young MASTERS and MISSES. 31

Both armies joined battle in the forest where Hacho had been lost after hunting; and it so happened, the King of Norway challenged him to single combat near the place where Hacho had tasted the honey. The Lapland Chief, languid, and long unused to arms, was soon overpowered;



he fell to the ground, and before his insulting adversary struck his head from his
F body,

body, uttered this exclamation, which the Laplanders still use as an early lesson to their children : The vicious man should date his destruction from the first temptation. How justly do I fall a sacrifice to sloth and luxury in the place where I first yielded to those allurements which seduced me to deviate from temperance and innocence ! The honey which I tasted in this forest, and not the King of Norway, conquers Hacho.

XI. *History of two Friends.*

JOHNSON and Smith were two young persons educated in the same house, and brought up to the same master; but with this difference, that Johnson was the son, and the other the servant; and the former had a considerable independant fortune, the latter no estate but honest industry.

About

About three years since the parent and the master dying, the young traders were left to themselves: Smith declined an offer of partnership with his young master, merely because it was more than he could have expected; and Johnson generously advanced him a sum of money to engage in trade with, for himself. Smith, who knew he traded at present but with another's stock, and had only industry and frugality for means to repay the loan, and settle himself in ease and happiness, became the most diligent trader. No irregularities over night kept him in bed the next morning, and his doors were open two hours before, and at least an hour after his neighbours: Smith lived in his shop, and knew no idle moment there; his constant attendance brought him constant business; his obliging behaviour, and the probity of his dealings, made every customer a friend

to him ; and whoever once bought of him, never afterwards bought any where else.

The first year's balance gave him power to pay his generous benefactor, with grateful thanks ; and before another was elapsed, he was become the favourite of every worthy person in the neighbourhood ; and the sobriety of his life recommended him so far to the favour of the clergyman of the place (one of the worthiest of his holy function) that he found no objection in the way of his addresses to the gentleman's only daughter : she had no great fortune ; nor could our young trader expect much ; the good-will of her father was a sufficient portion. His good opinion of his son-in-law was so great, that he readily agreed to all that he gave his daughter being laid out in trade ; and that gave the young man a larger stock than he could otherwise have commanded ;

while

while the good-will of every man in the parish to the father, made them take pleasure in obliging him; at the same time that they encouraged a young man who deserved it; and he by this means, got as great an addition of custom as that in his stock, and became the most flourishing young trader in the place.

This better fortune made no alteration in his temper; he naturally, indeed, entered upon a somewhat more expensive way of living on his having a wife; but she was as prudent as himself; and they soon calculated a certain standard of expence, something within what their present profits would afford; and determined to save a little from that, until their increase of trade should enable them in the succeeding years to spend more, without being more extravagant. It is easy to conceive that such a family must save money yearly;

ly; and in short, the end of a second year saw them worth more than from small beginnings one would easily expect.

While this was the life of Smith, his young master, whose easy fortune set him above the necessity of industry, was carrying on the same trade in a different manner; he had easily determined himself to follow trade, as an amusement for his leisure hours; but since he did not want it, designed never to be very solicitous about it, but to do just what he liked of it, and no more. He took an experienced good servant, as a substantial trader who recommended him, assured him, and gave him good pay to take the trouble, while he had no share in any part of the business but the profits of it. It is the most dangerous of all errors, though too common a one, for a man to imagine he can play with business, and do what he pleases,
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when his affairs are easy without it. There is no middle state in the trading world ; industry will bring riches, idleness beggary ; nor is there any medium between these : The shop that is kept, will keep its master, but that which is neglected, will at any time ruin him who does not want it ; and, too often, an experienced servant is, to such a man, the worst servant in the world.

Johnson, however, did not absolutely neglect his affairs of this kind ; he appeared every morning in his shop ; at noon, indeed, he dined at the tavern, and spent the evening as a man of fortune ought. Every young trader has the unhappy imagination, that going out into company is the way to get into business, and that neighbourly clubs in most streets are half the support of the members of them. It is one of the most mischievous errors in the world to
fancy

fancy this, and I am afraid, it is an error that has been fatal to half the young traders in large towns. They do not consider, the master of the house is the only man whose purse is the heavier for these meetings, and that the people who frequent them are usually idle and indigent persons ; such as a sober trader ought to avoid having any dealings with, not court their custom.

Johnson, however, was above all these sects of people ; the company he kept were men of fortune ; the young fellows of taste and spirit of age ; he frequented every club of such, and soon got their general custom.

The dress necessary to appear among such people in, was so different from the sober habit of the city, that this alone, which made him the adoration of the neighbouring apprentices, and perhaps, laid the
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first steps to the ruin of one half of them in their ambition to follow him in his fashions, got him so universally the distaste and ill-will of the sober part of the neighbourhood, that he soon had no other custom than that of acquaintance.

All this while an elegant manner of living, and the necessary supplies for the shop, called for a deal of money: Johnson's fortune was all in cash, he readily drew on his banker as often as he wanted; he contented himself with knowing that he lived very little above the income of his fortune alone, and as to what trade called for, he imagined he knew that must be returned with interest. It was no matter to him that no money came, neither did he know, indeed, except at the year's end, whether any came or not; he knew it was all one to him, whether he was paid to day, or this day twelvemonths, and was
fully

fully persuaded of that too common and destructive error, that long credit gives a man reputation ; and that a tradesman should never call in his money so long as it was safe ; because it stops his customers from buying.

Johnson had, indeed, all the false notions of the generality of young traders, but not one more ; and too many in this city are ruined daily by the same, though they are still propagated among numbers as the secrets of trade, and held for truths as certain as the gospel. Johnson's affairs now began to run dreadfully behind hand, without his knowing it ; but that which is to all others a relief when they find themselves gone, was now the scheme of our young gentleman trader without his knowing it. A young lady who accidentally came into his shop during the morning hours, one day while he was in
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it, took away both what she bought, and her young tradesman's heart into the bar-



gain. In short, Johnson watched her home. He was prudent enough, before he made any further step, to inform himself who she was; and found she was a person of a good family, and worth seven thousand pounds.

Johnson

Johnson was a man of polite and engaging behaviour; he soon found means of introducing himself into the family, and as he imagined himself more than an equal match for her, he made it his first step to settle matters with her father. The old gentleman had no right liking to this sort of gentleman-trading that Johnson carried on, but his private fortune made him unexceptionable in respect of money, and he soon convinced the old gentleman of the advantages of his way of carrying on business. He found less difficulty to get the lady's consent than her father's, and all was harmony and good understanding between them; The lover gallanted the lady and the family to all the publick places of diversion; and the continual affability and good humour about him, made the old people, in short, as much in love with him almost as the lady.

Courtship

en- Courtship is sure to be the ruin, or hap-
ans by settling of every young tradesman who
and engages in it : If the choice be imprudent,
ual it is ruin whether it succeed or not ; and
p to even where it is irreproachable, the time
old lost about it, and the neglect of business it
fort occasions, are not easily made up to a young
rri- man. All points, however, were so well
him agreed about our affair, that Johnson found
and it no difficulty to get the day of marriage
n of fixed ; the bride made her preparations,
g on and Johnson's taylor had his orders not to
get fail. When things were in this state, the
and lady's fortune was enquired into more in
ling earnest on Johnson's part, and his on her
the father's. No mistake appeared about hers,
pla- but, alas ! the looking into his affairs on
bil- this occasion was the first notice of the bride-
the groom's ruin. It is true, his books were
with full of long debts, and the current account
of cash in trade was something considera-
ble ;

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ble ; but his fortune was, in a manner, all drawn out of his banker's hand, and though he had much more owing to him than by him, yet his debts to his traders were not small.



It is easy to imagine, the prudent father now refused his daughter : The distress on her part as well as Johnson's, was very sincere and affecting, that they must part ; while they did it with the sincerest agonies

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on both sides, nor could the entreaty of the old people prevent the young lady from engaging herself by the most solemn vow, never to marry any other person.

Johnson now went to new-model his affairs, to take his money and call in his debts, but, alas ! his servant went off with his ready money, and his debtors were one half dead, and the other half in goal, or in Flanders. It was not so, however, with his creditors ? the breaking off the match set them upon enquiries, and the ill-natured world soon whispered the occasion. It is not difficult to guess what must be the event of this ; all fell upon him at once, and his goods and person were seized upon. What now remained, therefore, for the unhappy Johnson to do ? He bethought himself of the friend he had been once generous to ; he called in what was remaining of his fortune, sent to Smith, delivered all into his hands, and begged of him to
bring

ble ; but his fortune was, in a manner, all drawn out of his banker's hand, and though he had much more owing to him than by him, yet his debts to his traders were not small.



It is easy to imagine, the prudent father now refused his daughter : The distress on her part as well as Johnson's, was very sincere and affecting, that they must part ; while they did it with the sincerest agonies

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bring his creditors to some composition. The generous Smith engaged himself for the whole, took home his friend, called in his debts, paid the remainder out of his own fortune, and told him, My dear Johnson, there was a time when your generosity offered me a partnership in what I had no right to; my trade is now as good as yours was then; but there is this great difference, that—though you owe nothing to me, I owe every thing to you, and let my gratitude now offer, what your generosity then did, a share in all you have enabled me to procure. It was not without much difficulty that the unhappy Johnson accepted this offer; he now, however, saw through all his former folly, and became as diligent as his friend had been. The neighbourhood adored the generosity and gratitude of young Smith, and even his wife and father applauded it; every thing had been some time perfectly happy here,
and

and Johnson knew no misfortune but the loss of his bride, whom he indeed doated on with an uncommon affection; though he had no hope of gaining her; but fortune, as suddenly as she had robbed him of her, restored her to him again; a relation of his dying at this time, left him a fortune twice as great as that he had at first. His love, his gratitude, his generosity, now shewed themselves in the most amiable colours; he married the lady, laid his whole fortune into wholesale trade; and took Smith in to be equal sharer in the profits; and the neighbourhood now see them the most flourishing traders in it, and a glorious example to every one about them.

XII. *Of a Moor and a Spaniard.*

WHILE the Moors governed in Spain, and the Spaniards were mixed with them, a Spanish Cavalier, in a sudden

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sudden quarrel, slew a young Moorish gentleman, and fled. His pursuers soon lost sight of him, for he had, unperceived, thrown himself over a wall. The owner, a Moor, happening to be in his garden, and looking over the wall, was addressed by the Spaniard on his knees, who acquainted him with his case, and implored concealment. Eat this, said the Moor, giving him half a peach, and come over



the

the wall, you now know that you may confide in my protection. He then locked him up in the garden apartment, telling him that next morning as soon as it was light, he would provide for his escape to a place of more safety. The Moor then went into his house, where he had scarce seated himself, when a great crowd with loud lamentations, came to his gate, bringing his son's corpse, that had just been killed by a Spaniard. When the first shock of surprize was a little over, he learned, by the description given, that the fatal deed was done by the person then in his power. He mentioned this to no one; but as soon as it was dark, retired to his garden apartment, as if to grieve alone, giving orders that none should follow him. There accosting the Spaniard, he said, Christian, the person you have killed is my son. His body is now in my house. You ought to suffer

suffer; but you have eaten with me, and I have given you my faith, which must not be broken, follow me. He then led the astonished Spaniard to his stables, where, mounting him on one of his fleetest horses, he said, Fly far while the night can cover you. You will be safe in the morning; you are indeed guilty of my son's blood; but God is just and good, and I thank him that I am innocent of yours, and that my faith given is preserved.

XIII. *History of two Knights.*

IN the days of knight-errantry and paganism, one of the old British Princes set up a statue to the Goddess of Victory, in a point where four roads met together. In her right hand she held a spear, and rested her left on a shield; the outside of this shield was of gold, and the inside of silver. On the former was inscribed, in
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the old British language, "To the goddesses ever favourable;" and on the other, "For four victories obtained successively over the Picts, and other inhabitants of the northern islands."

It happened one day, that two knights completely armed, the one in black armour, and the other in white, arrived from opposite parts of the country, at this statue, just about the same time; and as neither of them

them had seen it before, they stopped to read the inscriptions; and observe the excellence of its workmanship. After contemplating it for some time, This golden shield, says the black knight—Golden shield ! cried the white knight, who was as strictly observing the opposite side, why, if I have eyes, it is silver, I know nothing of your eyes, replied the black knight, if ever I saw a golden shield in my life this is one. Yes, returned the white knight, smiling, it is very probable indeed, that they should expose a shield of gold in so publick a place as this is ! for my part, I wonder that even a silver one is not too strong a temptation for the devotion of some of the people that pass this way ; and it appears by the date, that this has been here above three years. The black knight could not bear the smile with which this was delivered, and grew so warm in the dispute,

dispute, that it soon ended in a challenge. They both therefore turned their horses, and rode back so far, as to have sufficient space for their career; then fixed their spears in their rests, and flew at each other with the greatest fury and impetuosity. Their



shock was so rude, and the blow on each side so effectual, that they both fell to the ground so much wounded and bruised, that

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that they lay there for some time as in a
trance. A good Druid, who was travelling
that way, found them in this condition.

The Druids were the physicians of those
times, as well as the priests. He had a
sovereign balsam about him which he had
composed himself ; for he was very know-
ing in all the plants that grew in the fields,
or in the forests. He staunched the blood,



applied

applied his balm to their wounds, and brought them as it were, from death to life again. As soon as he found them sufficiently recovered, he began to enquire into the occasion of the quarrel. . Why, this man, cried the black knight, will have it that the shield yonder is silver. And he will have it, replied the white knight, that it is gold ; and then told him all the particulars of the affair. Ah! says the Druid, with a sigh, you are both of you in the wrong ! Had either of you given himself time to have looked upon the opposite part of the shield, as well as that which first presented itself to his view, all this bloodshed might have been avoided. However, there is a very good lesson to be learned from the evil that has befallen you on this occasion : Permit me therefore to entreat you by our gods ! and by this goddess of Victory, in particular, never to en-

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ter into any dispute for the future, till you have fairly considered each side of the question.

XIV. *History of Whang, a Miller.*

IN the North of England lived Whang, by trade a miller. Nobody loved money better than he, or more respected those that had it. Whang, however, with all his eagerness for riches, was, in reality, poor. He had nothing but the profits of his mill to support him; yet, though these were small, they were certain. While his mill stood and went, he was sure of eating; and his frugality was such, that he every day laid some money by, which he would at intervals count, and contemplate with much satisfaction. Yet still his acquisitions were not equal to his desires; he only found himself above want, whereas he desired to be possessed of affluence.

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One day as he was indulging these wishes, he was informed that a neighbour of his had found a pan of money underground, having dreamt of it three nights running before. These tidings were daggers to the heart of poor Whang. Here am I, says he, toiling and moiling from morning until night for a few paltry farthings, while neighbour Hunks only goes quietly to bed, and dreams himself into
thousands

thousands before morning. Oh! that I could dream like him, with what pleasure would I dig round the pan; how sily would I carry it home; not even my wife should see me; and then, O the pleasure there is in thrusting one's hand into a great heap of gold up to the elbow! Such reflections only served to make the miller unhappy; he discontinued his former assiduity, he was quite disgusted with small gains, and his customers began to forsake him. Every day he repeated the wish, and every night laid himself down in order to dream. Fortune, that was for a long time unkind, at last however seemed to smile upon his distresses, and indulged him with the wished-for vision. He dreamed, that under a certain part of the foundation of his mill there was concealed a prodigious large pan of gold and diamonds, buried deep in the ground, and covered with a large flat stone.

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He rose up, thanked the stars that were at last pleased to take pity on his sufferings, and concealed his good luck from every person (as is usual in money dreams) in order to have the vision repeated the two succeeding nights, by which he should be certain of its veracity. His wishes in this also were answered; he still dreamed of the same pan of money in the very same place.

Now, therefore, it was past a doubt; so getting up early the third morning, he repairs alone, with a mattock in his hand, to the mill, and began to undermine that part of the wall which the vision directed. The first omen of success that he met with was a broken mug; and, digging still deeper, he turned up a house tile, quite new and entire; at last, after much digging, he came to the broad flat stone, but then so large, that it was beyond one man's strength



strength to move it. Here, cried he, in raptures to himself, here it is ! under this stone there is room for a very large pan of diamonds indeed. I must e'en go home to my wife, and tell her the whole affair, and get her to assist me in turning it up. Away therefore he goes, and acquaints his wife with every circumstance. Her raptures on this occasion may easily be imagined ; she flew round his neck, and embraced him
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in an agony of joy ; but those transports, however, did not delay their eagerness to know the exact sum ; returning therefore speedily together to the place where Whang had been digging, there they found not indeed the expected treasure, but the mill their only support, undermined and fallen.

XV. *History of Hamti, Emperour of China.*

HAMTI, the best and wisest Emperour that ever filled the throne, after having gained three signal victories over the Tartars, who had invaded his dominions, returned to Nanking in order to enjoy the glory of his conquest. After he had rested for some days, the people, who are naturally fond of processions, impatiently expected the triumphal entry, which emperours upon such occasions were accustomed to

to make. Their murmurs came to the emperor's ears. He loved his people, and was willing to do all in his power to satisfy their just desires. He therefore assured them, upon the next feast of the lanterns, to exhibit one of the most glorious triumphs that had ever been seen in China. The people were in raptures at his condescension, and on the appointed day assembled at the gates of the palace with the most eager expectations.——Here they waited for some time without seeing any of those preparations which usually precede a pageant. The lantern with ten thousand tapers was not yet brought forth, the fireworks which usually covered the city walls were not yet lighted; the people once more began to murmur at this delay, when, in the midst of their impatience, the palace gates flew open, and the Emperor appeared, not in splendour and magnificence

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for young MASTERS and MISSES. 113

but in an ordinary habit, followed by the blind, the maimed, and the strangers of the city, all in new clothes, and each carrying in his hand money enough to sup-



ply his necessities for the year. The people were at first amazed, but soon perceived the wisdom of their King; who taught them, that to make one man happy was more truly great than having ten thousand captives groaning at the wheels of his chariot.

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XVI. *History*

XVI. *History of a Nobleman and his
Servant.*

A NOBLEMAN of a certain neighbouring country having been treacherous to his prince, and finding himself obnoxious to the stroke of justice, his treasons having been penetrated and amply detected, consults with one of his servants how to avert punishment ; which he does, by persuading him (the servant) to make himself the principal, and the only conspirator ; and to clear his lord in the most effectual manner from the least imputation of the crime. To encourage him to this, the nobleman tells him, that although he might be cast and condemned, yet he would not fail to procure him a pardon, as also to allow him as a recompense for this most signal service a great part of his estate. Upon this the nobleman's steward (for

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(for such it seems he was) confesses himself the sole author and contriver of the aforesaid treasons, and absolutely frees his lord's reputation, for which, sentence of death was presently awarded against him, and he remanded back to prison, where the lord comes to him upon pretence of getting him to make some further discoveries, but, indeed, to tell him that he had procured him a pardon, shewing him one that he had counterfeited for that purpose, and which he took out of a black box, and withal told him, that notwithstanding the pardon he had procured, it was the King's pleasure that he should be carried to the place of execution, partly to save appearances, but chiefly for the greater terrour and example of others, and after having made his speech there, should then receive his pardon, bidding him not to be daunted or troubled at any thing that

that should be done or said to him, being matter of form and necessary solemn parade ; and assured him withal, that when at the place of execution he should see a person on his left hand, holding up a black box, it should be to him an infallible sign that his pardon was there.

Upon this the man was encouraged, and seemed not to be concerned at his present situation, but longed for the day of his supposed execution ; which being now come, the man with the black box was very assiduous to appear in sight as soon as he was come out of the prison, and accompanied him at a distance until he came to the place of execution where the man with the black box placed himself on an eminence on the left hand of the prisoner, that he might be the more apparently conspicuous to him. The prisoner then addresses himself in a speech to the people,
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which he little thought would have been his last, and again acquits his Lord, &c. still having his eye upon the black box ; but having drawn out his speech to an unusual length, the Sheriff told him he could stay no longer ; to which the pris-



oner replied, that there was a gentleman stood close by with a black box in his hand, who was lately come from court, and

and who he was confident had got his pardon ; upon which the gentleman with the black box was called for, who being come delivered his box to the sheriff, who took a paper out of it containing these words, Upon sight hereof, let the prisoner be immediately executed ; which order was so speedily obeyed, that the prisoner had no time to discover the cheat that was put upon him ; so he fell a victim to his own folly, and died unpitied, because unknown.

XVII. *The Lovers made happy.*

WHEN the great Scipio, the Roman General, was pursuing his conquests in Spain, a noble and beautiful lady was made his captive. He was in the prime of life, was smitten with her beauty, and acquainted her with it ; but she received him with horror, declaring she was

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was pre-engaged to one of her own country. Scipio heard her with uneasiness, appeared irresolute, but said he would declare his mind at another interview. The time came, the General took his seat, the guards attended, and the lady and her lover threw themselves at his feet, all in tears, under the greatest apprehensions and perplexity. Then Scipio, rising, took the lovers from



the

the ground, dried their tears, and made them forever happy in each other. This was a greater action than winning a battle. No man was great enough to conquer Scipio ; but Scipio conquered himself.

XVIII. *Gluttony punished.*

KABUL, says the Zendavesta, was born on the rushy banks of the river Mawra ; his possessions were great, and his luxuries kept pace with the affluence of his fortune ; he hated the harmless brahmins, and despised their holy religion ; every day his table was decked out with the flesh of an hundred different animals, and his cooks had an hundred different ways of dressing it, to solicit even satiety.

Notwithstanding all his eating, he did not arrive at old age ; he died of a surfeit, caused by intemperance : Upon this his

soul

soul was carried off, in order to take its trial before a select assembly of the souls of those animals which his gluttony had caused to be slain, and who were now appointed his judges.

He trembled before a tribunal, to every member of which he had formerly acted as an unmerciful tyrant; he sought for pity, but found none disposed to grant it. Does he not remember, cries the angry boar, to what agonies I was put, not to satisfy his hunger, but his vanity? I was first hunted to death, and my flesh scarce thought worthy of coming once to his table. Were my advice followed, he should do penance in the shape of a hog, which in life he most resembled.

I am rather, cries a sheep upon the bench, for having him suffer under the appearance of a lamb, we may then send him through four or five transmigrations
in

in the space of a month. Were my voice of any weight in the assembly, cries a calf; he should rather assume such a form as mine: I was bled every day, in order to make my flesh white, and at last killed without mercy. Would it not be wiser, cries a hen, to cram him in the shape of a fowl, and then smother him in his own blood, as I was served? The majority of the assembly were pleased with this punishment, and were going to condemn him without further delay, when the ox rose up to give his opinion: I am informed, says this counsellor, that the prisoner at the bar, has left a wife with child behind him. By my knowledge in divination, I foresee that this child will be a son, decrepid, feeble, sickly, a plague to himself and all about him. What say you then, my companions, if we condemn the father to animate the body of his own son; and
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by this means make him feel in himself those miseries his intemperance must otherwise have entailed upon his posterity. The whole court applauded the ingenuity of his torture; they thanked him for his advice. Kabul was driven once more to revisit the earth; and his soul in the body of his own son, passed a period of thirty years, loaded with misery, anxiety, and disease.

XIX. *Honesty rewarded.*

ONE day a poor woman, encouraged by the great fame of Cardinal Farnese's generosity, came into the hall of the Cardinal with her only daughter, a beautiful maid of seventeen years of age. When her turn came to be heard among the crowd of petitioners, the Cardinal discerning the marks of an extraordinary modesty in her face and carriage, as also in her daughter, encouraged her to tell her wants freely.

freely. She blushed, and, not without tears addressed herself to him. My lord, I owe for the rent of my house five crowns, and such is my misfortune that I have not wherewithal to pay it. What I beg of your Eminence is, that you would please to interpose your sacred authority, and protect me from the violence of a cruel man, until by our honest industry, we can procure the money for him. The Cardinal, moved with admiration at the woman's virtue and innocent modesty, bid her be of good courage. Then he immediately wrote a billet, and giving it into her hands, Go, said he, to my steward with this paper, and he will deliver thee five crowns to pay thy rent. The poor woman, overjoyed, returning the Cardinal a thousand thanks, went directly to the steward, and gave him the note, which when he read, he told her out fifty crowns. She, astonished

for young MASTERS and MISSES. 125

ished at the meaning of it, and fearing this was only the steward's trick to try her honesty, refused to take above five, saying, she asked of the Cardinal no more, and she was sure it was a mistake. On the other side, the steward insisted on his master's order, not daring to call it in question. But all the arguments he could use were insufficient to prevail on her to take more than five crowns; wherefore, to end the controversy, he offered to go back with her to the Cardinal, and refer it to him. When they came before that magnificent Prince, and he was fully informed of the business, It is true, said he, I mistook in writing fifty crowns, give me the paper and I will rectify it. Thereupon he wrote again, saying thus to the woman: So much candour and virtue deserve a recompence; here, I have ordered
you



you five hundred crowns ; what you can spare of it, lay up as a dowry to give your daughter in marriage.

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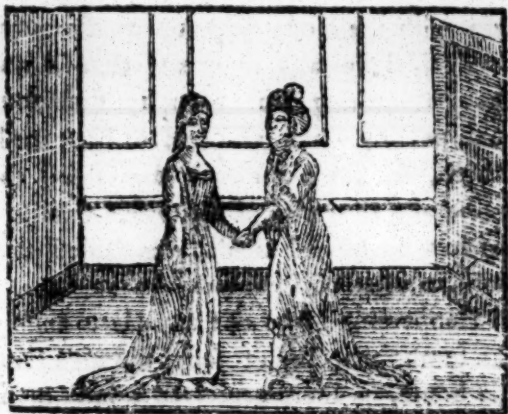
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XIX. *History of Choang and Hanfi.*

CHOANG was the fondest husband, and Hanfi the most endearing wife in all the kingdom of Korea : They were a pattern of conjugal bliss ; the inhabit-



ants of the country around saw, and envied their felicity ; wherever Choang came
Hanfi

Hanfi was sure to follow ; and in all the pleasures of Hanfi, Choang was admitted a partner. They walked hand in hand wherever they appeared, shewing every mark of mutual satisfaction, embracing, kissing, their mouths were forever joined, and to speak the language of anatomy, it was with them one perpetual anastomosis.

Their love was so great, that it was thought nothing could interrupt their mutual peace ; when an accident happened, which, in some measure diminished the husband's assurance of his wife's fidelity ; for love so refined as his, was subject to a thousand little disquietudes.

Happening to go one day alone among the tombs that lay at some distance from his house, he there perceived a lady dressed in the deepest mourning (being clothed all over in white) fanning the wet clay that was raised over one of the graves,
with

with a large fan which she held in her hand. Choang, who had early been taught wisdom in the school of Loa, was unable to assign a cause for her present employment ; and coming up, civilly demanded the reason. Alas ! replied the lady, her eyes bathed in tears, how is it possible to survive the loss of my husband, who lies buried in this grave ? He was the best of men, the tenderest of husbands ; with his dying breath he bid me never marry again, until the earth over his grave should be dry ; and here you see me steadily resolving to obey his will, and endeavouring to dry it with my fan. I have employed two whole days in fulfilling his commands, and am determined not to marry until they are punctually obeyed, even though his grave should take up four days in drying.

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Choang.

Choang, who was struck with the widow's beauty, could not, however, avoid smiling at her haste to be married; but, concealing the cause of his mirth, civilly invited her home; adding, that he had a wife who might be capable of giving her some consolation. As soon as he and his guest were returned, he imparted to Hansi in private what he had seen, and could not help expressing his uneasiness, that such might be his own case, if his dearest wife should happen one day to survive him.

It is impossible to describe Hansi's resentment at so unkind a suspicion. As her passion for him was not only great, but extremely delicate, she employed tears, anger, frowns, and exclamations, to chide his suspicions; the widow herself was inveighed against; and Hansi declared she was resolved never to sleep under the same

for young MASTERS and MISSSES. 131

roof with a wretch, who, like her, could be guilty of such barefaced inconstancy. The night was cold and stormy ; however, the stranger was obliged to seek another lodging, for Choang was not disposed to resist, and Hanli would have her way.

The widow had scarce been gone an hour, when an old disciple of Choang's, whom he had not seen for many years, came to pay him a visit. He was received with the utmost ceremony, placed in the most honourable seat at supper, and the wine began to circulate with great freedom. Choang and Hanli exhibited open marks of mutual tenderness, and unfeigned reconciliation : Nothing could equal their apparent happiness ; so fond an husband, so obedient a wife, few could behold without regretting their own infelicity. When, lo ! their happiness was at once
disturbed

disturbed by a most fatal accident. Choang fell lifeless in an apoplectick fit upon the floor. Every method was used, but in vain, for his recovery. Hansi was, at first, inconsolable for his death : After some hours, however, she found spirits to read his last will. The ensuing day she began to moralize and talk wisdom ; the next day she was able to comfort the young disciple ; and, on the third, to shorten a long story, they both agreed to be married.

There was now no longer mourning in the apartments ; the body of Choang was now thrust into an old coffin, and placed in one of the meanest rooms, there to lie unattended, until the time prescribed by law for his interment. In the mean time, Hansi and the young disciple were arrayed in the most magnificent habits ; the bride wore in her nose a jewel of an immense price,

price, and her lover was dressed in all the finery of his former master, together with a pair of artificial whiskers which reached down to his toes. The hour of their nuptials was arrived ; the whole family sympathized with their approaching happiness ; the apartments were brightened up with lights that diffused the most exquisite perfume, and a lustre more bright than noon-day. The lady expected her youthful lover in an inner apartment with impatience ; when his servant, approaching with terrour in his countenance, informed her, that his master was fallen into a fit, which would certainly be mortal, unless the heart of a man lately dead, could be obtained, and applied to his breast. She scarce waited to hear the end of his story, when tucking up her clothes, she ran with a mattock in her hand to the coffin where

Choang,

Choang lay, resolving to apply the heart of her dead husband as a cure for the living. She therefore struck the lid with the utmost violence. In a few blows the coffin flew open, when the body, which, to all appearance had been dead, began to move. Terrified at the sight, Hansi dropped the mattock, and Choang walked out, astonished at his own situation, his wife's unusual magnificence, and her more amazing surprize. He went among the apartments, unable to conceive the cause of so much splendour. He was not long in suspense, before his domesticks informed him of every transaction since he first became insensible. He could scarce believe what they told him, and went in pursuit of Hansi herself, in order to receive more certain information, or to reproach her infidelity. But she prevented his reproaches

proaches ; he found her weltering in blood ; for she had stabbed herself to the heart, being unable to survive her shame and disappointment.

Choang being a philosopher, was too wise to make any loud lamentations ; he thought it best to bear his loss with serenity ; so, mending up the old coffin, where he had lain himself, he placed his faithless spouse in his room ; and, unwilling that so many nuptial preparations should be expended in vain, he the same night married the widow with the large fan.

As they both were apprised of the foibles of each other beforehand, they knew how to excuse them after marriage. They lived together for many years in great tranquillity ; and not expecting rapture, made a shift to find contentment.

XX. *Insult punished : Or, the Path
of Rectitude narrow.*

WHILE I was in France with a travelling tutor, I received a letter,



which acquainted me that my father, who
had been long declining, was dead, and
that

that it was necessary I should immediately return to England, to take possession of his estate, which was not inconsiderable, though there were mortgages upon it to near half its value.

When I arrived, I found a letter which the old gentleman had written, and directed to me with his own hand. It contained some general rules for my conduct, and some animadversions upon his own : He took notice of the incumbrance under which he left the parental inheritance, which had descended through many generations, and expressed the most earnest desire that it might be transmitted entire to posterity : With this view, he said, he had negociated a marriage between me and the only daughter of his old friend, Sir George Homestead, of the north, an amiable young lady, whose alliance would
be

be an honour to my family, and whose fortune would much more than redeem my estate.

He had given the Knight a faithful account of his affairs, who after having taken some time to consider of the proposal, and consult his friends, had consented to the match, upon condition, that his daughter and I should be agreeable to each other, and my behaviour should confirm the character that had been given of me. My father added, that he hoped to have lived until this alliance had taken place; but as Providence had otherwise determined, he intreated, as his last request, that as soon as my affairs should be settled, and decency would permit, I would make Sir George a visit, and neglect nothing to accomplish his purpose.

I was touched with the zeal and tenderness of paternal affection, which was then directing me to happiness, after the heart had ceased to beat, and the hand that expressed it was mouldering into dust. I had also seen the lady, not indeed since we were children ; I remembered her person was agreeable and her temper sweet ; I did not hesitate a moment, whether my father's injunction should be obeyed. I proceeded to settle his affairs ; I took an account of his debts and credit, visited the tenants, recovered my usual gaiety, and at the end of about nine months, set out for Sir George's seat in the north, having before opened an epistolary correspondence, and pressed my impatience to possess the happiness my father had so kindly secured.

I was better pleased to be well-mounted than to loll in a chariot, or be jumbled
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in a post-chaise; and knew that Sir George was an old sportsman, a plain, hearty blade, who would like me better in a plain pair of buckskin breeches, on the back of a good hunter, than in a trimmed suit and a gaudy equipage; I therefore set out on horseback, with only one servant, and reached Stilton the first night.

In the morning, as I was mounting, a gentleman, who had just got on horseback before me, ordered his servant to make enquiries about the road, which I happened to overhear, and told him, with great familiarity, that I was going the same way, and, if he pleased, we would travel together: To this he consented, with as much frankness and as little ceremony, and I set forward greatly delighted that chance had afforded me a companion.

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We immediately entered into a conversation, and I soon found that he as well as myself had been abroad : We extolled the roads and the policy of France, the cities, the palaces, and the villas ; entered into a critical examination of the most celebrated seats in England, the peculiarities of the building and situation, cross-ways, market-towns,

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ket-towns, the imposition of inn-keepers, and the sports of the field; topicks by which we mutually recommended ourselves to each other, as we had both opportunities to discover equal knowledge, and to display truth with such evidence as prevented diversity of opinion.

After we had rode about two hours we overtook another gentleman, whom we accosted with the same familiarity that we had used to each other; we asked him how far he was going, and which way, at what rate he travelled, where he put up, and many other questions of the same kind. The gentleman, who appeared to be near fifty, received our address with great coolness, returned short and indirect answers to our enquiries, and often looking with great attention on us both, sometimes put forward that he might get before us,

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and sometimes checked his horse that he might remain behind ; but we were resolved to disappoint him ; and finding



that his reserve increased, and he was visibly displeased, we winked at each other, and determined the old Put should afford us some sport. After we had rode together upon very ill terms for more than half an hour,

hour, my companion, with an air of ceremonious gravity, asked him, If he knew any house upon the road where he could be accommodated with a wench. The gentleman, who was, I believe, afraid of giving us a pretence to quarrel, did not resent this insult any otherwise than by making no reply. I then began to talk to my companion as if we had been old acquaintances, reminding him, that the gentleman extremely resembled a person from whom we had taken a girl he was carrying to a bagnio, and, indeed, that his present reserve made me suspect him to be the same; but that, as we were willing to ask his pardon, we hoped it would be forgot, and we should still have the pleasure of dining together at the next inn. The gentleman was still silent; but as his perplexity and resentment visibly increased, he proportionably increased our

entertainment, which did not however, last long, for he suddenly turned down a lane, upon which we set up a horse-laugh, that continued until he was out of hearing ; and then pursuing our journey we talked of the adventure, which afforded us conversation and merriment for the rest of the day.

The next morning we parted, and in the evening I arrived at Homestead-Hall. The old knight received me with great affection, and immediately introduced me to his daughter, whom I now thought the finest woman I had ever seen. I could easily discover, that I was not welcome to her merely upon her father's recommendation, and I enjoyed, by anticipation, the felicity which I considered as within my grasp. But the pleasing scene in which I had suffered my imaginations to wander,

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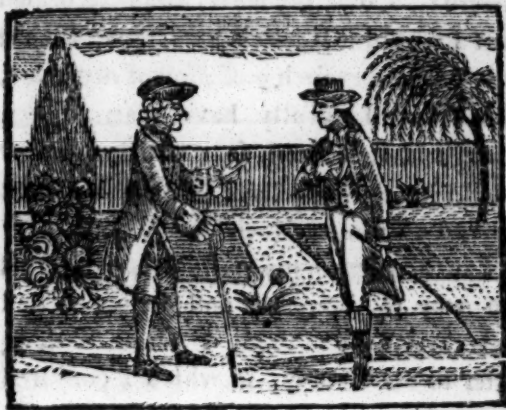
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suddenly disappeared, as by the power of enchantment; without any visible motive, the behaviour of the whole family was changed, my assiduities to the lady were repressed, she was never to be found alone, the Knight treated me with cold civility, I was no longer a party in their visits, nor was I willingly attended even by the servants. I made many attempts to discover the cause of this misfortune, but without success; and one morning, when I had drawn Sir George into the garden by himself, and was about to urge him upon the subject, he prevented me, by saying, that his promise to my father, for whom he had the highest regard, as I well knew was conditional; that he had always resolved to leave his daughter a free choice, and that she had requested him to acquaint me, that her affections were otherwise

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erwise engaged, and to intreat that I should therefore discontinue my addressees,



My surprize and concern at this declaration was such as left me no power to reply; and I saw Sir George turn from me, and go into the house, without making any attempt to stop him, or to obtain a further explanation. Afterwards, indeed, I frequently

quently expostulated, entreated, and complained ; but perceiving that all was ineffectual, I took my leave, and determined that I would still solicit by letter ; for the lady had taken such possession of my heart, that I would joyfully have married her, though I had been sure that her father would immediately have left all his fortune to a stranger.

I meditated on my epistolary project all the way to London, and before I had been three days in town I wrote a long letter to Sir George, in which I conjured him in the strongest terms, to account for the change in his behaviour ; and insisted, that on this occasion, to conceal the truth was in the highest degree dishonourable to himself, and injurious to me.

To this letter, after about ten days, I received the following answer :

SIR,

S I R,

IT is with great reluctance that I reveal the motives of my conduct ; because they are much to your disadvantage. The inclosed is a letter which I received from a worthy gentleman in this county, and contains a full answer to your enquiries, which I had rather you should receive in any hand than in mine.

I am your humble Servant,

GEO. HOMESTEAD.

I immediately opened the paper inclosed, in which, with the utmost impatience, I read as follows :

S I R,

I SAW a person with your family yesterday at the races, to whom, as I was soon after informed, you intend to give your daughter. Upon this occasion, it is
my

my indispenfible duty to acquaint you, that if his character is to be determined by his company, he will inevitably entail difeases and beggary upon his pofterity, whatever may be the merit of his wife, or the affluence of his fortune. He overtook me on the road from London a few weeks ago, in company with a wretch, who, by their difcourfe, appeared to be his old and familiar acquaintance, and whom I well remember to have been brought before my friend Juftice Worthy, when I was accidentally at his houfe, as the keeper of a brothel in Covent-Garden. He has fince won a confiderable fum with falfe dice at the mafquerade, for which he was obliged to leave the kingdom, and is ftill liable to a profecution. Be affured that I have perfect knowledge of both; for fome incidents, which are not neceffary to mention

for young MASTERS and MISSES. 151

tion, kept me near them so long on the road that it is impossible I should be mistaken.

I am, Sir yours, &c.

JAMES TRUEMAN.

The moment I had read this letter the riddle was solved. I knew Mr. Trueman to be the gentleman whom I had concurred with a stranger, picked up by accident, to insult, without provocation, on the road. I was in a moment covered with confusion; and though I was alone, could not help hiding my face with my hands. I abhorred my folly, which appeared yet more enormous every time it was reviewed.

I courted the society of a stranger, and a stranger I persecuted with insult: Thus I associated with infamy, and thus my associate became known. I hoped, however,

er, to convince Sir George, that I had no knowledge of the wretch whose infamy I had shared, except that which I had acquired from the letter of his friend. But before I had taken proper measures for my justification, I had the mortification to hear, that the lady was married to a neighbouring gentleman, who had long made his addressee, and whom Sir George had before rejected in the ardour of his friendship for my father.

How narrow is the path of rectitude, and how much may be lost by the slightest deviation !

I NO 61

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